Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A notification system, comprising;
a profile definition and selection system that receives contextual information relating to a current user state, the profile definition and selection system generating and/or relaying a set of control parameters based at least partially upon the contextual information; and
a notification manager that selectively sends a user at least one of a notification and a communication based upon the set of control parameters.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the profile definition and selection system is a user context component.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein user context component selects at least one of M user profiles, M being an integer, based upon the contextual information, the user profiles including at least one of N user context variables to define different states associated with a user.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the user profiles define at least one state relating to when, what, how and where.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the user profiles are provided *via* at least one of default files, prototype files, and survey directed files.

6.   The system of claim 2, wherein user context component selects at least one of M context profiles, M being an integer, based upon the contextual information, the context profiles including at least one of N user context variable sets to define different states associated with a user.

7.   The system of claim 6, wherein the context profiles are associated with a tuning value that is employed to adjust the notification manager.

8.   The system of claim 7, wherein the tuning value increases or decreases an amount of notifications associated with the context profiles.

9.   The system of claim 6, wherein the context profiles are defined as at least one of an empty set, a single set and a multiple set of context parameters acting upon the notification manager.

10.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a user interface for adjusting the control parameters.

11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the user interface includes sliding adjustments to enable the control parameters to be increased or decreased.

12.   The system of claim 11, wherein the user interface utilizes display feedback to indicate anticipated system performance effects based upon the user the adjustments.

13.   The system of claim 12, wherein the display feedback is determined from past system performance.

14.   A signal facilitating communications in a notification system, comprising:

a data packet for communicating contextual information associated with a notification manager and a user context component, the user context component determining the contextual information;

the signal providing at least one adjustment to the notification manager relating to the contextual information.

15.   The system of claim 14, at least a portion of the contextual information relating to a current geographic location of a user.

16.   The system of claim 14, the notification manager selects one of a plurality of communications devices based at least in part upon the contextual information and relays a message to the selected communications device.

17.   A notification system, comprising:

an adaptive component that automatically tunes one or more parameters by collecting feedback about notification behavior during a training phase; and

a notification manager that selectively sends a communication based upon the behavior.

18.   The system of claim 17, the adaptive component further comprises a history for at least one of tracking, reporting, and summarization of changes for users.

19.   The system of claim 17, the feedback includes at least one of "I am busy now, that was not worth it in this context," "I'd like to be getting more email," and "I am being bothered too much with this facility."

20.   A notification system, comprising;

a rules-based system operative according to one or more rules, the rules-based system receives contextual information relating to a user state and generates a set of control parameters based upon the contextual information and the one or more rules; and

a notification manager that selectively sends a notification based upon at least one of the set of control parameters and the one or more rules.

21.   The system of claim 20, further comprising a user interface to at least one of employ, refine, and view sets of logical IF-THEN rules that define policies and related controls for the policies.

22.   The system of claim 21, the related controls further comprising at least one of thresholds, message-chunking, and one or more preferred devices.